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Students of Bryn Mawr College

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The College News

Vol. LI, No. 9

BRYN MAWR, PA.

December 3, 1965

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25 Cents

Seniors Ponder Grad School, Reading Period, Early Semester Fewer Than Usual 60% May Go Highlight New Calendar Proposal

Whether over coffee at the deanery in the morning or in littered senior smokers at 2:00 a.m., wherever seniors gather, the dialogue centers more often than not on consideration of next year--to graduate school or to work, to travel or to wed.

In past years, more Bryn Mawrers have chosen further education than the alternatives. The percentage of those continuing, according to the Dean's Office, has hovered around 60 for the past few years. This is the highest percentage of any women's college in the United States. Not only, it seems, do we choose truth, we also choose graduate school.

But what of the class of 1966? Although plans are now only in the formulative stage and few are absolutely certain about what they are going to do next year, the COLLEGE NEWS has attempted, through a questionnaire distributed to seniors, to ferret out the prevailing mood within the class about graduate school.

The results are incomplete at best, since only 65 out of 141 seniors completed the questionnaire, but on the basis of these there seems to be a marked tendency away from immediate continuation of studies. Asked whether they planned to go on next year, 32 seniors answered yes, 33 answered no. If one can generalize from these figures, the 60% figure may be replaced by slightly less than 50% next year.

Most of those who are not planning to continue immediately, however, do not rule out the possibility of going on later. Twenty-five of the 33 said that they would continue in the future; only 8 said emphatically that more formal education was not for them.

History and English majors dominated in the group which answered no. A solitary chemist was the only representative in the sciences who plans not to continue. Desire to go on immediately was strongest in the fields of history of art, archaeology, anthropology, the classical languages, and the various sciences.

Of those who answered affirmatively, 10 plan to train for professions other than teaching, notably either law or architecture. Seven are working towards a masters in teaching in various fields, and 15 plan to pursue strictly academic lines.

In the comments they made, seniors as a group dislike the push towards graduate school merely for the sake of possessing something more than a B.A. Commented one, "The mad rush to graduate school, as such, leaves me very, very cold. The incessant accumulation of higher degrees with no direct purpose of pursuing an active career in one's field strikes me as a waste of time."

Another saw danger in making a rational and independent decision about one's future from two sides. She could be influenced by the rush to graduate school and "apply to places where she simply won't be happy, or fall into a fairly widespread sarcasm about graduate schools and not realize that grad school really is the place for many

people."

Others ranted against use of the graduate school as an incubator. Commented one: "It has been made very easy for us to coast along on intellect alone. Pampered in kindergarten, coddled through junior high, urged into college, we arrive at the age of 21 or 22 believing that life is a simple series of grades starting at one and leading to 16. To go on to graduate school may extend this series to infinity."

But for many the desire to go on doesn't reflect fear of entering the great wide world at all, only the knowledge that they can do nothing in their chosen fields with a B.A., making more education a necessity. There are also those who will continue because they get more out of a formalized education than on their own.

T.G.

Undergrad Still Facing Loss of Social Chairman

The Social Committee will function as a cooperative body without a chairman until new elections are held in March.

Sandy Magill, elected campus social chairman at a meeting of hall chairmen last week following Ruth Levy's resignation, has also declined to serve because of the office's numerous responsibilities. Unless someone else volunteers to be social chairman, the committee will consist of, (besides the hall chairmen, who will handle dorm activities only) a group of volunteers whom the administration will call upon to handle specific events.

Plans already have been made for the Johns Hopkins University

585 Contributors, Or 80% of BMC, Fast for SNCC

Over 80% of the student body participated in last Tuesday's fast for SNCC, according to Jackie Williams, a SNCC leader. 585 people, at Bryn Mawr including graduate students joined the fast.

Haverford college received a response of over 75%.

SNCC will receive about 40 cents per meal.

The money will go to Natchez, Mississippi, where Negroes are boycotting white stores in an effort to put into action rights now guaranteed under the Civil Rights Act, including voting and desegregation of public accommodations.

The boycott has resulted in mass firing of Negro workers in the town, reports SNCC. The money will be sent to the boycotters, who are in need of food and clothing.

The Fast was carried out by the fourteen or so Friends of SNCC at Bryn Mawr (SNCC has no official membership, but is organized around informal groups, providing a maximum outlet for individual ideas and projects).

The Curriculum Committee and the Undergraduate Association have proposed a new plan for the academic calendar next year. Mrs. Dorothy N. Marshall, dean of the college, will present the plan to the faculty today (Friday).

Paramount consideration in formulating the new plan was coordinating the calendar with Haverford's. It is also necessary for any suggested calendar to coordinate with the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School because of its close association with Bryn Mawr's.

A major change in the calendar is a proposed reading period lasting six days before the winter and spring exams. At the same time, the so-called "lame duck" session of two weeks after Christmas vacation and before exams

would be eliminated.

Under the proposed plan, school would start two weeks earlier than usual, on September 12, 1966 and run straight to Thanksgiving vacation. The last day of classes for the first semester would end just before Christmas vacation, Friday, December 16, 1966. School would start again January 3, 1967, and until January 8 there would be a reading period. Exams would be held January 9-18.

After a five day intersession, the second semester would start January 25 and classes end May 5. A week long spring vacation would come in March. There would be an equally long reading period before exams. Commencement would be May 22.

Variations on the plan include a four-day reading period with the extra days being added either to

intersession or the exam period.

It was recommended that if a plan with a reading period was adopted, exceptions by the Dean's Office be made for those students who did not wish to come back from Christmas vacation or would find it inconvenient.

Representatives from the Curriculum Committee and Undergrad came to the halls on Wednesday to explain the proposed and alternate plans to the students. They also asked for student opinion and recommendations.

The faculty will make the final decision on any change. Some have expressed the opinion that they would like to have a longer summer to work on research and other projects. They discussed the same problem at a meeting Tuesday, November 30.



Elsa Hilger

Orchestra Concert Friday Night To Feature Haydn, Bach Pieces

by Chris Mueller
Haverford, '66

Haydn's CONCERTO IN D MAJOR FOR VIOLONCELLO AND ORCHESTRA and three pieces by J.S. Bach will be the featured works presented Friday evening as the Bryn Mawr-Haverford Orchestra opens its 18th season. The group, under the direction of William Reese, will perform in Roberts Hall, Haverford, at 8:30 p.m.

Cellist Elsa Hilger of the Philadelphia Orchestra will perform the Haydn Concerto.

Miss Hilger joined the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1935, becoming the first woman instrumentalist, aside from harpists, to join the ranks of any leading symphony orchestra. In January of this year she performed the Haydn Concerto

with the Philadelphia Orchestra.

At the age of nine, Miss Hilger began her musical studies by enrolling in the Vienna Conservatory. She and her two sisters, also excellent musicians, performed extensively throughout Europe. The

Hilger family came to America in 1920 and continued the concert tours until Miss Hilger joined the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Miss Hilger and her husband, Dr. Willem Ezerman, are the parents of Bob Ezerman, who was recently graduated from Haverford College.

In 1964-65, Miss Hilger received the C. Hartman Kuhn Award, a tribute paid yearly to a member of the orchestra who by musical enterprise and ability enhances the reputation and musical stand-

ards of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Haydn wrote the Concerto in D Major for cello in 1784, and it was first performed by Antoo Kraft, an excellent cellist in the orchestra Haydn conducted for 12 years.

Kraft had studied composition with Haydn until Haydn himself abruptly stopped the lessons, complaining that Kraft concentrated so much on composition that he neglected his cello.

Scholars once questioned the authenticity of the D major Concerto, and some believed that Kraft himself composed it. The quality of Kraft's compositions, however, was not comparable to Haydn's, and at length Ludwig von Kochel, the great cataloguer of Mozart, affirmed the authenticity of the work.

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Between the Horns

The results of the grad school questionnaire straggled in, and some 50 per cent of the seniors responding said yes, they were considering graduate study next year. A substantial majority of the other half, the career and marriage bound, qualified their choice with some plans for eventual advanced study.

The bare statistical indication that approximately 80 per cent of the senior class shows interest in graduate study is without doubt remarkable -- even for such a school as Bryn Mawr. Of course, there are relatively few graduates whose raw ability and training could not qualify them for some field of graduate study, but perhaps even fewer have not been affected by the graduate-school-oriented curriculum, counselling and peer pressure.

Obviously, the curriculum of any good academic institution should direct its students towards intensive and independent major study, which in turn makes them well prepared and potentially desirable graduate school candidates; but this is not nearly as compelling an influence on seniors as the counselling and encouragement given them to study for advanced degrees. The importance placed on sending capable students to graduate schools is certainly helpful and beneficial to those whose vocations or interests involve advanced study. This sort of counselling can, however, fall short of its purpose for those students, good students, to whom the question should be "whether," not "where" to apply for graduate study. Unfortunately, plans for a career or even professional studies, which might better suit the temperament and inclinations of a particular student, are sometimes dampened in favor of available fellowship and graduate admissions.

But the final, and perhaps strongest push toward graduate study comes from the students themselves. It is difficult to evaluate one's personal situation when friends and classmates are moving toward advanced study. The various short programs are an answer to some whose interests do not lie in formal academics, but whose vocations, such as teaching, require some additional training. The grad school rush even affects some of those with definite marriage or career plans and no leanings toward advanced studies. Many of these feel it necessary to justify their positions by claiming an interest in future study.

We are not against advanced study; it is highly desirable for those whose interests and vocational plans are fulfilled by it. But for many of us, the decision for or against graduate school deserves serious consideration -- and possibly the foresight to say no.

Cross Your Fingers

It appears that Curriculum Committee and Undergrad have done it at last. After the turmoil over last year's calendar proposal and the various suggestions following it, the latest plan to emerge would seem to be that elusive object, a calendar which pleases students, faculty, and administration.

No doubt there will be some objections somewhere, but, generally, the proposed calendar--to be presented to the faculty today--seems excellent. Major advantages for students are the reading period preceding exams, the assured five-day intersession, and the scheduling of the first semester's end before Christmas. Alot of these are conducive to a less hectic academic year and would eliminate the bad luck that plagues a student with papers to write up till the weekend preceding exams, spread out exam schedules that leave her three days in which to go nowhere without having to come right back again, and a Christmas vacation spent worrying about the paper she isn't writing.

The fact that the academic year would start two weeks earlier is balanced by the time gained in the spring (when it's hard to work anyway). This, too, would appear to satisfy the faculty's request for a long summer period in which to do research.

Repeat: the plan seems excellent. Congratulations to Curriculum Committee and Undergrad, and here's hoping the faculty shares our enthusiasm.

Lecture Notes

If the attendance at recent lectures is any evidence, it must be that time of year when many Bryn Mawrers go into hibernation to concentrate on all the long-term work they've put off so far.

We're thinking specifically of Whitney Young's lecture Monday night, when a relative handful of people dribbled into Goodhart Auditorium to hear the nationally-celebrated Urban League director speak.

Granted that Goodhart Auditorium is an unfortunate choice for a lecture site. Even if a fair amount of listeners attend (e.g. a Common Room crowd), the auditorium might still be less than half full. An audience that appears sparse -- picture 500 ping-pong balls scattered on the hockey field -- is a dismaying prospect for any speaker. Better planning makes for better psychological effects on both sides of the lectern.

Farther, we've heard assorted complaints that students are wearing slacks and shorts to attend lectures. Such attire is not an actual violation of the dress rule, but neither is it a particularly commendable way to express individuality or liberality. Practicing simple courtesy is no curtailment of person or privileges.

Forgive the sermon, but the subject of lectures called for a lecture.

Senior Spends French Summer As Employee of Business Firm

(The following article, by Edith Novack, '66, is one of a series by students who spent time studying or working in Europe. Edith worked last summer for a business firm in Paris. — ed.)

The first thing I was told by my superior this summer was that I would be unable to meet some of the executives and employees of the company because they were on vacation. This, indeed, is the most striking aspect of any French firm from July 1st until September 15th.

The *congé payé*, three or four weeks' vacation with pay, is an established institution in France, and the French are horrified to hear that it does not exist in America. Even the lowliest member of my firm had at least two weeks off (the length increases with the tenure of employment) during which he would be ashamed to be seen within Paris or its environs.

I was employed for six weeks as an A.I.E.S.E.C. trainee with the Compagnie Générale Savoie-Acheson, the French affiliate of Union Carbide International Company. CISA, as it is known to its employees, has its business and research offices in Paris and its factory (manufacturing graphite products for industrial use) in Savoie, a province in the south-east of France, not far from Geneva. But it was all much more exciting than it sounds; for the *stage*, or traineeship, is a well-established custom in France, and most economics and business students have at least one traineeship during their undergraduate course.

The idea is for the student to see how a business functions so

that he will know what to expect when he embarks upon a professional career. A.I.E.S.E.C., which is an international organization of such students, is the agency which handles the communications among students and businessmen in 37 countries and which sets up international exchanges.

Thus, I was not strictly a CISA employee, but rather an observer of the company's operations. In this capacity I discussed their duties with whichever of the executives were not on vacation, went to lunch in the office cafeteria with the telephone operator, the secretaries, and the bookkeepers, and visited the factory where I heard a detailed description of and actually watched every stage in the fabrication of graphite.

In one sense it was unfortunate that I could not have had this traineeship during another season. The French business does not ordinarily employ temporary workers to carry out the duties of those on vacation. Their jobs simply are not done while they are absent.

Since there are a great many absentees throughout the summer, the level of activity in the firm is rather low. This is not the exceptional case. When I asked how the firm could prosper in spite of ten weeks of inactivity I was advised that a comparable situation exists throughout the French business community.

The day begins in the French office at 8:30 and lasts until 5:30. There are no coffee breaks, but most CISA employees had tea every afternoon. (The custom had been instituted by a former director who was English.) The company has a private canteen which serves tasty, although standardized lunches. (Part of the expense is covered by CISA.)

The typical French company provides a great many benefits for its employees; for instance, several days of paid vacation when one gets married or loses a close

family member, shortened work days for pregnant women, and leaves-of-absence for new mothers.

It was difficult to make friends within the company because the French consider their jobs and their personal lives completely separate. There were very few friendships among either the executives or the employees which continued after business hours.

Employment, in France, is considered necessary to support oneself and one's family -- but nothing more. Once office hours end, the Frenchman, even if he is the most important of business officials, turns his attention to what really counts -- the pleasures of life: a good dinner, a well-aged wine, conversation.

Since I had little social contact with the CISA employees after business hours, I occasionally participated in A.I.E.S.E.C. activities. These included visits to other firms, regular Friday night parties, and weekend sightseeing tours. The international composition of the A.I.E.S.E.C. trainees -- English, Dutch, Yugoslavs, Germans, Israelis, Norwegians, Swedes, Danes, Swiss, and Americans -- and the remarkably well-coordinated efforts of the French student staff often made for fascinating diversion.

Not all A.I.E.S.E.C. traineeships are perfect. Even mine, which was fairly close to ideal, had its drawbacks; there were times when I would have preferred typing all day to sitting alone in my office studying documents about CISA's labor relations or investment patterns.

But, in general, the experience was a marvelous one. I learned more about the French business system and about the French people than I ever could have by reading about them or even by touring the country; and I was in a job situation which, as a student on summer vacation, I could never have duplicated in the United States.

Self-Gov Evaluates Dress Rule But Determines No Alterations

At the joint meeting of the Executive and Advisory Boards of Self-Gov in November, it was decided that the dress rule for the Ville ought to be re-evaluated. The topic was taken back to the dorms by the presidents for discussion.

The element in favor of change made the discussions lively, but when the presidents returned to Advisory Board after Thanksgiving, only two dorms, Merion and Denbigh, claimed clear majorities wanting withdrawal of the rule. It was strongly felt among the rest of the dorms that what the rule needed was immediate clarification.

The general consensus in favor of continuing the rule reflects the belief that the rule is an important means of maintaining a

satisfactory relationship with the community. It is especially important in a community so concentrated with colleges and schools to show respect for its year-round residents by maintaining a decent standard of dress.

Self-Gov has set forth these clarifications of the dress rule:

1. Skirts must be worn in Bryn Mawr and on all local public transportation.
2. Pants may be worn when walking or cycling to Haverford, and to the Comet at night.

Recently the rule has been frequently violated. This can no longer be excused on the grounds of a lack of clarity.

The dress rule, like all other Self-Gov rules, must be upheld by the students according to the honor system.

applebee



ah the inter-vacation hiatus when papers strike like appendicitis

when people change conversations from lengthy disputations upon the menu's culinary delights to debating how many days and nights

remain till-heaven help us-then and then they count again

tis the time of year for holiday cheer when days are dear and tomorrow draws near faster and faster

the scholar counts her fingers while the student lingers and deadlines cross the horizon ignoring their orison to the goddess time

temporally,
applebee





Whitney Young (left) enjoys coffee with Louis Goldstein before Monday night lecture.

Whitney Young Visits Campus Discusses Negro, Urban Affairs

Whitney Young, Executive Director of the National Urban League, came to Bryn Mawr to deliver a lecture sponsored by Alliance Monday night, Nov. 29. He opened his visit by dining in Erdman with his daughter Marcia and an old friend, Louis Goldstein, of the School of Social Work and Social Research.

The conversation during dinner ranged from Mr. Young's amazement at seeing so many girls dressed in skirts when it wasn't mandatory, to a discussion of the European view of the American racial conflicts and the existence of politically conservative groups on campus.

His main topic, however, was the upcoming Department of Urban Affairs, recently created by Congress. Setting up such a department and having it actually function are 'two entirely different problems,' said Mr. Young, especially since there are many existing programs designed to handle urban affairs that probably won't like suddenly being put under federal control.

The act of legislation that created the department is worded very vaguely, he added, so the roles it could play are undefined and "wide open" at present. Both Mr. Young and Mr. Goldstein emphatically agreed that attention should be paid to social planning (in housing development, for example) as well as to physical planning.

Mr. Goldstein has been to Brazilia, and he called it the biggest white elephant civilization has ever produced, simply because Kubachek and his architects didn't know anything about social planning.

Leading into his lecture, Mr. Young said that if peace comes, our government would have to spend more money on domestic social urban problems, just to keep the economy on its present level and prevent a depression.

Mr. Young's lecture was as interesting as his conversation. Speaking to a painfully small audience in Goodhart, he began by saying that he didn't hold the small attendance against us.

As his main thesis, Mr. Young described a working view of integration. It should be considered an opportunity for both Negroes and whites to enrich their lives, instead of an unfortunate situation forcing whites to "take their castor oil" and let the Negro live next door.

Blue-eyed Anglo-Saxon Protestants shouldn't need to be surrounded by other blue-eyed Anglo-Saxon Protestants in order to feel secure, he said, emphasizing that sameness is an unnecessary crutch.

Speaking tongue-in-cheek, Mr. Young remarked that it takes real

genius to keep so many Negroes out of so many positions for so long. Some of that genius must now be applied in the opposite direction. Employers can't always ask for superior Negroes ("We don't have that many secretaries who can type 150wpm and look like Lena Horne"), but because there are "jobs for dumb whites hire some dumb Negroes too."

Mr. Young insisted that we must now work as hard to put Negroes into society as some have worked to exclude them. This extra effort is only fair and decent, and not at all a matter of preferential treatment, he said.

Talking little about the so-called "Instant Negro" of token integration, Mr. Young again commented that we didn't need to be taught how to integrate. "I don't want to tell you how to get more Negro kids in Bryn Mawr. I don't want to tell you how to get more Negroes on your faculty," he paused. "A Negro on your faculty." He concluded what we already know; accomplishing integration is just a matter of sufficient care.

K.B.

"Antisocial Activity Bred By Our Society" - Wilson

H. H. Wilson, of the Department of Politics at Princeton, spoke at an open lecture Tuesday night, which, however, had no publicity other than Mr. Bachrach and Mrs. Emerson telling their political science classes to attend. Wilson has written several books and articles (one with Professor Harvey Glickman of Haverford) within his specialty of pressure groups.

Leaving pressure groups somewhat, he spoke of our society as being a delinquent society and of our culture as being one which is deeply embedded with the values of the commercial world. The problem arises when it becomes clear that the values of the commercial world are those advocating self-seeking, cheating, tax evasion, payola, padding expense accounts and white collar crime. These actions are sanctioned by the operative values (as opposed to the so-called official values, which are mouthed by organizations such as the Boy Scouts) of our society, and these are the values that our children learn. So, in Wilson's view, it's obvious why children are delinquent. They are growing up in an environment which actually encourages such anti-social behavior.

We live in a racket society. There is no public revulsion to such institutionalized deceit as is found in the advertising and packaging industries. All this, Wilson is positive, contributes to a wide-

spread lack of social responsibility and degradation of individual human dignity.

Since he was speaking to political science majors, he concluded by speculating on what political democracy means when actions of organizations such as the CIA and the FBI (over which democratic processes have apparently no jurisdiction) become controlling in the society. This problem is crucial to all that is human in our way of life, he emphasized, and what political science must do is become less concerned with rationalizing and explaining "what is" and try instead to understand the consequences of present trends in terms of "what ought to be."

We can no longer let progress just happen; rather we must deliberately move ourselves in a direction which we have previously decided is morally, ethically and humanely right.

Frank Kermod completed his Flexner lecture series, "The Long Perspectives - The Theory of Fiction," with a talk on "Forms in Time and Forms in Space" November 22 in Goodhart.

Mr. Kermod opened his lecture by describing the necessity for fictions in life. This need is complex, because man knows that none is a supreme fiction. Sartre calls this condition "need"; Wallace Stevens terms it "poverty."

To illustrate the process by which notions can become real to man, Mr. Kermod discussed SOLITARY CONFINEMENT by Christopher Burney. The book was written by a British agent held prisoner in occupied France. It concerns the world a man invents in real poverty and solitude, without the aid of many previous fictions.

Mr. Kermod defined Burney's condition as solitude of plight and diversity of state, calling the combination of these factors the highest skill of man. Burney's book is post-tragic because it involves the true freedom of acceptance. The author could impose his humanity on the world and thereby transform reality. Such an objective and ordered world would be impossible in the real world.

Solitude became an exercise in liberty, because Burney was inventing fictions of relation to deny the causality of life. Everything was re-invented, even a clock to re-establish the succession of time in his cell. The prisoner created a clock from a shadow because of his need for fictions of succession and end.

Man's scepticism impels him to discard fictions that are too explanatory and fulfilling, said Mr. Kermod. Burney is satisfied with the invention of an end convenient to himself. He tells himself that he cannot possibly be in prison after Christmas; when Christmas passes, he calculates a new limit. It is essential to have a boundary that makes time finite.

In the end, said Mr. Kermod, fictions fall in the presence of what James called "real distinguishable things." Meanwhile, however, they do work. We see that without contradictions and paradox, our fictions would be too complete to console.

We are conscious of our cheating, but this only means that the concord we desire is harder to achieve. However subtle the pattern created, it must take account of the world in which we live.

It is harder now to imagine a strict relation between time of one life and of the entire world, said Mr. Kermod. The paradigms of fictions really belong to a tight world scheme, but the lengthening of the scale of history has been upsetting to the old system.

The sciences now have turned from spatial to temporal modes. There is need for the same historical transition from literature assuming that it is imitating an order to literature assuming that it is creating an order.

Wordsworth employed a matter-of-factness in dealing with the problem of decreation of old forms of speaking, said Mr. Kermod. The poet began to make the quasi-spatial mode as inappropriate in literature as it was in science.

Wordsworth finds hiding places of power that supply what is required to defeat time and deliver man from its meaninglessness. In "Resolution and Independence," he succeeds for a moment in transcending world time.

According to Mr. Kermod the most important factor of the poem is the image of the old man, described by Wordsworth as "such a figure in such a place." The task for Wordsworth is the explanation of the power of the

image. The old world is still represented, but it is transfigured by the poet's temporal sense of the past.

De Quincey, continued Mr. Kermod, finds the triumph of time by charging a particular moment with great feeling and meaning. His visionary life is relived only on a background of horror. In de Quincey's view, our accepted ways of seeing the world have no concord with the world and only rarely with the desires of our minds.

Mr. Kermod maintained that the art of the timeless prison must be poetry. Formal criticism is more closely associated with poetry, but novels are always bound to "need to reproduce manifest irreversibility of time," in the words of Sartre. A novel meets the problem of beginnings and ends in a form paradigmatically imitating the world; ends are ends only when they frankly transfigure the events in which they have been imminent.

The problem of the artist, said Mr. Kermod, is the consulting and ignoring of continuity. When he consults, he sets the word against the word and creates a need for new concords. When he ignores, he may regress into myth.

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TOM RUSH



My Cultural Heritage

Parents Plan Nigerian Marriages

(This is one of a series of articles by Doro Chizea, '69 on her native country of Nigeria. — ed.)

Here it is; a question you have been pondering over. Yes, "How do they get married?" Behind this question might be, "Is it fun to marry a Nigerian?" To the latter question I say, "Sure, much fun and you could try it." This is no advertisement, anyway!

Our periods of courtship are traditionally expected to be secret. A girl is not expected to introduce her boyfriend to her parents unless she feels very strongly she wants to marry him. The point is that you are not expected to be seen with one boy today and another boy tomorrow. In some cases, particularly recently, the boy and girl come to an agreement and then the boy tells his parents and then arranges the marriage.

Usually, however, the parents are the people who decide marriages. When a boy thinks he would like to get married, he tells his parents. Then his parents start looking for a wife for him. They base their choice on the reputation of the girl and the social and economic status of her family.

On the other side, the girl's parents and relatives try to find out about the reputation, social and economic background of the boy. They also try to investigate and see if the boy's family ever had a history of inherited diseases. If, for instance, the boy has had

two or more relatives who were mad at one time or another, then the girl's family is not likely to give their daughter's hand in marriage to the boy. (Hal Hal Hal! You probably will feel mad if you think your boyfriend is the only good creature that ever lived. I can almost spy you damning their "wretched old customs" for your boy. Hal Hal!)

Howbeit, after the two families have completed their investigations, the boy's family then goes formally with the boy to the girl's home for an "engagement." They take along with them kegs of palm wine, other drinks, and kola nuts. They say their prayers (remember, Pagans calling on the Spirits of their Ancestors to bless them), break the kola nuts and pronounce "the engagement." We don't use diamond rings. I admit the biggest diamonds come from Africa!

After this formal engagement, it becomes right for the boy to take out the girl openly. The reason for this method, I hope you can see easily. Your parents have to take all the troubles of securing your future for you. If a girl is seen going publicly with one boy and then seen going publicly with another boy, she will 'fail' the test on "Reputation." Besides, respect for the elders requires that you do only those things acceptable to the elders. If you go out openly

with a boy before the approval of the elders, then you are not well-

reputed.

Here, friends, I may tell you, you have an edge over me. You can go out with the boys here and have no elders to look at you and complain. That's big fun, isn't it?

Well, after a date for the marriage ceremony has been fixed, a number of events take place. I must add, that I can say very little about this. Once again, different groups go about these events in different ways. I have merely discussed here the traditional marriages. Of course, many people marry in the churches or in the court.

The basic thing in common with all the groups is the safe-guarding of their children's future. Marriages are really between two individuals but the families and relatives must give their sanction. This is necessary for the stability of the 'extended family' system typical of our society.

A serious disturbance in a family is not just the business of the husband and his wife but of the rest of the 'extended family,' particularly those who approved the marriage.

Another thing we do is allow polygamy. Essentially, the same processes take place. For all the women who wish to be married but do not have enough men for a one-to-one ration, the polygamous tradition can be very useful. Have you ever thought of how it would feel to legitimately share the same husband with another woman? Well, I think this is another 'fun' that will provide you with a variety you do not have in monogamy. What of that? Isn't it worthwhile?

I intend to finish my series with just one more article. Meanwhile, I recommend that you take a closer view at the Nigerian boys who hang around my hall, and take a good go at "Marriage with a Nigerian." Good Luck.

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'Salt of the Earth' Producer, McCarthy Victim, Talks Here

"Actions take their tincture from the times, And as times change, so virtues turn to crimes."

Daniel Defoe, "Hymn to the Pillory"

Mr. Herbert Biberman, producer of SALT OF THE EARTH, pointed out the truth of this statement in a lecture Wednesday afternoon in the Common Room. However, in his case, his crimes have become virtues.

Mr. Biberman was one of the ten Hollywood producers blacklisted during the McCarthy era. His film, which has not been shown for 11 years, reopened five weeks ago in New York and is now playing at the Bryn Mawr Theater.

The case in which Mr. Biberman became involved 11 years ago questions the individual's rights and freedoms. Mr. Biberman believes that a person or a company is responsible for his own actions. It is up to the individual, not the government, to decide what is right. For this reason he was one of 350 persons forced out of work because they would not allow

the House Un-American Activities Committee to investigate them.

The SALT OF THE EARTH had to be taken underground to be filmed. The movie and the persons involved existed under various pseudonyms, and certain scenes were actually shot under gunfire. Hard as it may be to believe, people took such drastic measures to prevent this indepen-

dent film from being made.

Mr. Biberman's "subversive" film is a real life story about some Mexican-American miners who went on strike on account of discrimination. The women of the community become the ultimate heroines, for it is through their actions that conditions improve. The movie confronts the viewer with social action taking place before his eyes. It concerns discrimination on a myriad of different levels. It was labeled communistic, because the persons involved, in refusing to sell their souls, had been labeled communists.

Eleven years ago the agents of the McCarthy era accused SALT OF THE EARTH of being a disservice to the United States for exposing the poverty and prejudices which exist here. Today this is the domestic program of the Johnson administration.

Mr. Biberman calls the film a beautiful film about beautiful people, people who still had hope and faith, who believed they had no place to go except forward. Whether one goes as a "damner or a beacon of light," Mr. Biberman urges everyone to see SALT OF THE EARTH.

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